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DOH Press Release



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2004 - 3rd Quarter

Press Release



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
July 23, 2004

PA HEALTH SECRETARY SAYS STUDY SUGGESTS SALMONELLA OUTBREAK LINKED TO ROMA TOMATOES

HARRISBURG: Health Secretary Dr. Calvin B. Johnson today said that a case control study of the current Salmonella Javiana outbreak suggests that Roma tomatoes are the source of the infection.

The Department of Health and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention compared the food histories of ill persons with non-ill people. A strong statistical association was identified between Salmonella infection and eating tomatoes. Ill people ate many different kinds of sandwiches and salads, but almost all ill persons reported eating tomatoes. The study compared the food histories of ill persons and others who did not become ill.

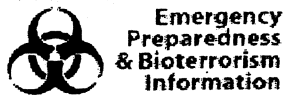
There are currently 210 cases related to the outbreak in Pennsylvania.

Salmonella is a bacterial infection that usually affects the intestinal tract, causing diarrhea and the threat of dehydration. Symptoms can include fever, mild or severe diarrhea, nausea, abdominal cramping and occasional vomiting. Infections can be particularly serious among the elderly, the frail or the very young and sometimes can be fatal. Salmonella is a common cause of gastroenteritis, with about 2,000 cases reported each year in Pennsylvania.

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